



A R L I N G T O N
B R A N C H R E P O R T
AAUW OF VIRGINIA
April 2015
Volume 71, Issue 8

Spring Membership Tea
April 12, 2015 2:00 – 4:00 pm
5626 6th Street North

The Spring Membership Tea will take place on Sunday afternoon, April 12, 2015 at Susan Senn's home in Arlington. The Executive Board agreed to change the name from The New Members' Tea because, by April, the new members have been part of the branch for most of the calendar year. We felt it would be nice to expand the attendees to include potential new members who have been invited to attend the tea along with both the 2014-2015 new members and the general membership. An idea was proposed to host a New Members' Tea in the fall season so as to introduce any current new members and to share with them information about all the various groups within the Arlington Branch. So, put the date in your calendar and begin thinking about who of your acquaintances might be interested in hearing about all the wonderful and important work AAUW does.



Susan Senn
Membership vice-president
703/243-0913
sennsu@verizon.net

President's Message

After a wintery March, we are hoping April lives up to its reputation as a month of spring. Our Branch event in April is the Spring Membership Tea at the home of our Vice President for Membership, Susan Senn. She suggests we invite friends who are not members to introduce them to AAUW, and especially our branch. I hope many of you will do so.

On the calendar of AAUW, April is the month of Equal Pay Day. As many of you know, it takes women about 15 months to earn what men earn in 12, thanks to the gender pay gap. We mark this occasion every April on a day known as Equal Pay Day, which is the symbolic day when women's earnings (78 cents to men's dollar) finally catch up to men's earnings from the previous year. **Equal Pay Day 2015 is Tuesday, April 14.** In a calendar twist, Equal Pay Day also falls on fair pay icon Lilly Ledbetter's birthday this year. I have included an excerpt from Anne Hedgepeth's item on Equal Pay Day found in the Public Policy sent by Leslie Tourgny our Virginia Public Policy chair. The link to the whole item is <http://www.aauw.org/files/2015/01/Gender-Pay-Gap-nsa.pdf>. Think about using this information to write a letter to the editor of one of the local papers, or the newsletter of a group of yours.

The gender pay gap persists despite civil rights laws and advancements in women's education and economic status, because workplace discrimination continues. According to Anne Hedgepeth of the AAUW Public Policy Department, over a lifetime of work (47 years), the total estimated loss of earnings of women compared with men is \$700,000 for a high school graduate, \$1.2 million for a college graduate and \$2 million for a professional school graduate.

AAUW's report *Graduating to a Pay Gap* found an unexplainable 7 percent difference in the earnings of male and female college graduates one year after graduation, even after accounting for many factors including college major, occupation, industry, sector, hours worked, workplace flexibility, experience, educational attainment, enrollment status, GPA, college selectivity, age, race/ethnicity, region, marital status, and motherhood. Clearly, the wage gap exists.

The pay gap persists across all racial and ethnic groups, and it is found in every state. AAUW's report *The Simple Truth About the Gender Wage Gap* found that among full-time workers in 2013, Hispanic, American Indian, African American, and Native Hawaiian women had lower median annual earnings compared with

non- Hispanic white and Asian American women. The wage gap was largest for Hispanic and Latina women, who were paid only 54 percent of what white men were paid in 2013. Further, working mothers are often penalized for having children, while fatherhood generally tends to boost a man's career

Wage inequality isn't simply a women's issue, it is a family issue. Recent research has found that 40 percent of households with children include a mother who is either the sole or primary earner for her family.⁶ Pay equity is the key to families making ends meet and moving working families into the middle class. Pay discrimination also limits women's life choices and has real short- and long-term consequences. It impairs the ability of women and families to buy homes and pay for college educations, and it limits their total lifetime earnings, savings, and benefits, which makes women much more vulnerable to poverty in retirement.

Looking ahead to May, our Annual Awards Luncheon is Saturday, May 2 at the Washington Golf and Country Club at 3017 North Glebe Road. The form for registering is in this newsletter, and is due by April 24. We hope to see many of you there to celebrate our Teacher of the Year and other awards.

I leave you with this thought from Margaret Mead:

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.

Sara Anderson

Membership News

Half-price Dues for New Members, March 16-June 30

Now is a great time for new members to join AAUW because dues are lower.

For those who join AAUW for the remainder of the dues year (through June 30) during the period March 16-June 30, dues are one-half of full-year dues, or \$40 (\$24.50 national + 7.50 Virginia + 8.00 Arlington branch). And for those who join during this period for the rest of the dues year at a public meeting, national dues are cut in half again, for a total of \$27.75 (\$12.25 national + 7.50 Virginia + 8.00 Arlington branch).

Alternately, new members may pay annual dues during this time, which will cover the period from when the dues are paid through June 30, 2016. The ongoing 50%

discount in national dues applies if a new member joins at a public meeting, for a total of \$55.50 (\$24.50 national + 15.00 Virginia + 16.00 Arlington branch).

So bring your friends with you to a public meeting--it's a great time to join!

Carol J. Dabbs

Spring Membership Tea

Dear Branch members, On April 12, I will host the newly named Spring Membership Tea. The purpose of this tea is to not only welcome new members but also to invite women whom you know who might be interested in joining us, the Arlington Branch AAUW, in all the wonderful work we are doing for lawmaking with Lobby Corps, for international relations through the International Coffee group, through the Book Club, Theater Group, Bridge group, for mentoring young women through the Lunch Bunch, and for young women's education in STEM. If there is anyone you might think of to invite, please send any pertinent contact information to me and I will send them a formal invitation through the mail. Please help me with this endeavor. The Spring Membership Tea serves as the April Monthly meeting.

I hope to hear from ALL of you soon

Susan Senn
sennsu@verizon.net

Upcoming Events

International Coffee

The THIS/AAUW International Coffee Group starts out the new year with two coffees in April

- April 8 at the home of Diplomat from Argentina - Andrea Mingorance's home in McLean
- April 22 at the home of Priscilla Becker

Branch members are welcome. For further information please contact Priscilla Becker at JBecker841@aol.com or 703/841-0647.

Let's Talk About Books

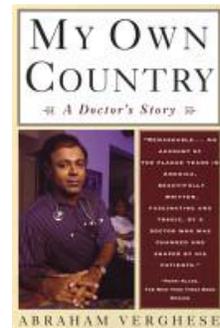
Our April meetings will be at the following times and locations:

- The second Monday, April 13 at 2 pm, at the home of Sylvia Daneel, 3800 N Fairfax Drive, #1209, 703/527-8879, sdaneel@earthwave.com
- The fourth Tuesday, April 28 at 2 pm, at the home of Virginia Sorkin, 3806 N Nelson St., 703/243-1523, nikros@verizon.net

Our book selection for April is *My Own Country* by Abraham Verghese.

Be sure to let the hostess know if you are planning to attend the session at her home.

Barbara A Gallagher
bgallag2@gmail.com



Arlington Mill Lunch Bunch

The Arlington Mill High School Lunch Bunch will meet on April 23, from 12:40-1:20 in the Library at the Career Center, 816 S. Walter Reed Drive, Arlington. Lunch is served and lively discussion is encouraged.

As part of the Girls Rising video curriculum, our girls will finalize their inspirational journey, this month, to Sierra Leone where we meet Mariama, a teenager with a strong sense of determination, the first in her family to go to school. She is the voice of the future. We hear her say, "Now there's nothing to stop me...nothing in the world...nothing in the universe". She has her own radio show, big dreams and a boundless imagination. We will witness once more the strength of the human spirit as Mariama discovers the transformative power of resilience and determination.

If you would like to attend this inspirational group, or be a speaker at one of the lunches, please contact Mary Ann Ullrich or Michele Milden. We look forward to seeing you at one of our Lunch Bunch programs this year.

Lunch Bunch Coordinators,

Michele Milden

mbmilden@aol.com

703/820-7794

Mary Ann Ullrich

maryann.ullrich.va@gmail.com

703/573-2002

STEM Update

Arlington AAUW has been offered the opportunity to join with Alexandria AAUW and, hopefully, another branch in Northern Virginia to plan and implement an all-day Tech Savvy Conference for 6-9th grade girls. Tech Savvy is a day-long STEM Career Conference designed to attract young women to the fields and is sponsored by National AAUW. In this case, BAE Systems, an international defense system company, on the same order as Northrop-Grumman and Lockheed-Martin, is fully funding this conference for \$30,000. The conference will occur mid-October-mid-November, 2015. One interesting fact - we will not have to collect fees for the conference as that will be taken care of online. Our Executive Committee agreed to support this endeavor. We have to have 4 branch members to participate in the planning. I have agreed to chair our 4-person group. Another member has already agreed to be one of the other three members. Our tasks will be identical, of sorts, to our other three STEM Conferences except that we will be working at with at least one other branch. The fact that it is fully-funded and that we will not have to go through what we've been through collecting fees makes my heart sing. I am all in. Who amongst you will agree to be the other 2 branch members who plan this event?

Here is a link to National AAUW information on Tech Savvy:

<http://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/stem-education/tech-savvy/>

Let me hear from you soon!
Susan Senn

FEDERAL LOBBY DAY MESSAGE

Please note that the date for this year's Federal Lobby Day, which is held under the auspices of the AAUW Lobby Corps, has been changed to **Thursday, May 14, 2015**. AAUW of Virginia members will be matched up with experienced Lobby Corps members and assigned Congressional offices to visit that day to lobby about legislation. Although it is too early for the schedule to be finalized, please anticipate that we will be getting an early start that day.



Please let Leslie Tourigny, AAUW of VA Public Policy VP (ltourigny@gmail.com) know by April 23, 2015, the names and email addresses of those who'll be coming, along with information on who their Member of Congress is.

Members traveling from a great distance will need to come in the night before. The good news is that our AAUW sisters in Northern Virginia are opening up their homes to overnight AAUW visitors. Please let Jeanne Elmore, Co-Northern District Representative (jfelmore2@verizon.net) know by April 23rd if you need or can provide accommodations.

Thanks you.

Marcy J. Leverenz
703/521-3174,
mleverenz at comcast.net

Spring Arts Luncheon

We are honoring *The Arlington Artists Alliance* at our annual luncheon honoring the arts in Arlington. The Alliance is non-profit organization serving and supporting artists in Arlington County. The Alliance works with participating local businesses, churches, and educational institutions to hold art shows in their spaces. The Alliance also provides a support network to members, allowing regional artists to share ideas.

Also, we are at a new venue, Washington Golf and Country Club. The view of DC is spectacular from the Club! **Questions?** Call Debbie Powers, Luncheon Chair, 703-241-8015 or Betsy Marron at 703-243-1915 or email: betsy@marron.org

PLEASE REMIT PAYMENT BY APRIL 24TH

From **Vivian Kallen** we have an item about the award going to Tom Mallon and Bill Podolski of H-B Woodlawn School.

A full appreciation of the excitement our Branch Awards Committee feels about this year's two awards for excellence in arts education begins with the backstory of H-B Woodlawn's productions of *Lizzy Strata* and *Footloose*.

This year marks the 55th anniversary of the February day in 1959 when four African-American students enrolled in Stratford Junior High, making Stratford the first public school in Virginia to desegregate. Mindful of the historic importance of the building which now houses H-B Woodlawn, the H-B W community of students and teachers decided to dedicate their newly refurbished auditorium to those four brave students and to fashion their theater season to explore themes like civil

disobedience, war and peace, the role of women, and how young people can be a powerful agent for social change.

Lizzy Strata, the musical, is H-B's original adaptation of Aristophanes's great protest comedy *Lysistrata* (411 BCE). Adapting the classic to modern day issues began with teacher Tom Mallon coaching a small group of middle schoolers with advanced interest and writing talent in a month-long series of workshops on Aristophanes and Greek comedy. This was followed by brainstorming on how to adapt this too-racy-for-middle-school classic to modern times and issues. The playwrights circle then expanded to include set, costume, and lighting designers and then to a huge cast recast from the fifth century BCE. Most remarkable was the extraordinary talent of 8th grader Calista Garcia, who, as Music Director, wrote the original songs, assembled an all-student rock band, and taught the music to the cast of 80!

Tom Mallon's vision, dedication, confidence in the students' abilities and creativity, and exceptional ability to connect with his students made this production possible, but his outstanding work in arts education does not end there. He heads the Arlington Student Filmfest (ASFF), which mentors middle and high school students from the entire country in the art and technology of filmmaking, culminating in an annual film festival. Last year students presented 60 films and created a strong bond with their fellow students who greatly appreciated the opportunity to develop this art form.

In addition to the desegregation of Stratford, Bill Podolski, Director of Choral Activities H-B Woodlawn Secondary Program, was moved by the crisis of uncertainty that H-B faced at the beginning of the school year because of capacity issues faced by Arlington Public Schools. "It became a time when our school community needed to speak up to advocate for our beliefs and people," he wrote. "We brought the lesson of peaceful protest into our classrooms and artistic productions, and how young people have been and continue to be a power voice."

The musical *Footloose*, which premiered in London in 1999, follows the action of a Chicago teenager who moves to a small town where he finds that dancing is illegal. His inability to be accepted gives him the passion to work for change – and he succeeds. With its fun and iconic music and the chance for the cast of 79 to show off their dance moves, *Footloose* was a joyful message that young people with strong convictions can do great things.

In addition to his annual productions of musicals – including *Guys and Dolls*, *Oklahoma*, *Les Miserables* – Bill teaches music theory and directs the H-BW choral ensembles in major works like Vivaldi's *Gloria Mass* and Mozart's *Coronation Mass*. Choirs under his direction have performed at the National Cathedral and Rockefeller Center.

Tom and Bill have demonstrated what high expectations can call forth from our students. As a very special treat, Calista Garcia, the remarkable 8th grader who was Music Director of *Lyzzzy Strata*, will sing two of her songs at our Awards Luncheon. You don't want to miss this!

Patrick Hope, Kristin Goss, Sara Anderson, Alfonso Lopez, Kathy Matusiak, Barbara Favola, Adam Ebbin, Marcy Leverenz at the post-Session Legislative Forum on March 14, 2015.



2013-2014 Executive Committee

President:	Sara Anderson , 532-3830, sfpaaauw6382 at aol.com
Vice-President for Programs:	Arlene Shapiro , 719-5467 arleneshapiro at yahoo.com
Vice-President for Membership:	Susan Senn , 243-0913, sennsu at Verizon.net
Secretary:	Cindy Almand , 533-9223, calmond47 at aol.com
Treasurer:	Carol Dabbs , 379-6840, carol_dabbs at yahoo.com
Assistant Treasurer:	Nancy Morgan , 465-1245, nhmorgan.va at gmail.com
Public Policy Chair:	Marcy Leverenz , 521-3174, mleverenz at comcast.net
Past President:	Arlene Wilson , 534-6837, arlenewilson at verizon.net

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American Association of University Women
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Mission of AAUW- Advancing equity for women and girls through advocacy, education, philanthropy and research.

In principle and in practice, AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, or class.

The Arlington *Branch Report* is published monthly from September through June by the Arlington Branch of the American Association of University Women. Articles for the May 2015 *Branch Report* should be mailed or emailed by March 10 to Editor Barbara Oliver at 5901 2nd St S, Arlington, VA 22204 or blolivere@aol.com.

Address changes or corrections should be made to Nancy Morgan.

Calendar of Coming Events

April 8	10:00 International Coffee
April 12	2:00 Spring Tea
April 13	2:00 Book Club
April 22	10:00 International Coffee
April 23	12:40 Lunch Bunch
April 28	2:00 Book Club
April 18	State Convention
May 2	Noon Spring Luncheon

welcome
April♥